

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3915

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, OVIP

SUBJECT: WHITLAM VISIT

REF: STATE 138534

1. MY CONVERSATIONS OVER WEEKEND SEPARATELY WITH KEITH WALLER (SECRETARY , DFA) AND JOHN BUNTING (SECRETARY, PRIMIN OFFICE AND CABINET) DISCLOSED FOLLOWING:

2. BOTH FELT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR AGENDA OR STRUCTURED CONVERSATIONS AT WHITE HOUSE MEETING. KEITH WALLER, FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH WHITLAM, SAID WHITLAM WOULD PROBABLY WISH TO SUMMARIZE AUSTRALIA'S NEW APPROACH TOWARD FOREIGN POLICY UNDER LABOR GOVERNMENT: AUSTRALIAN POLICY IS NOW MORE INDEPENDENT BUT BASIC LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVES OF US AND AUSTRALIA COINCIDE, WITH ANZUS RE-

MAINING ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIAN POLICY WHITLAM WOULD APPRECIATE TOUR D'HORIZON OF OUR RESPECTIVE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN, CHINA, INDONESIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA, HE WOULD PROBABLY MENTION HIS VIEW OF DESIRABILITY NEW REGIONAL FORUM FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC NATIONS PERMITTING REGULAR MINISTERIAL MEETINGS FOR ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION. WHITLAM PREPARED TO EXPLAIN THE WITHDRAWAL OF AUSTRALIAN TROOPS FROM SINGAPORE AS OF VERY LIMITED MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE DUE TO SUBSTANTIAL DEFENSIVE FORCES AVAILABLE IN THE AREA. THIS DID NOT IMPLY WITHDRAWAL FROM FDPA NOR FROM
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SEATO, ALTHOUGH LATTER'S MILITARY ROLE SHOULD BE DOWNPLAYED.

3. BUNTING'S AND WALLER'S PRINCIPAL CONCERNS OVER CHANGE IN SCHEDULE ((REFTEL) RELATES TO RESCHEDULING CALL ON THE SECRETARY AND TO DANGER OF PRESS LEAKAGES AND SPECULATIVE COMMENTS REGARDING SCHEDULE CHANGES. EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN HERE TO MITIGATE AGAINST THAT DANGER.

4. WHITLAM'S PARTY, MINUS THE WALLERS WHO ARE GOING ON TO EUROPE DIRECT FROM OTTAWA, WILL RETURN TO AUSTRALIA VIA HAWAII FOR THREE DAYS' REST AND RECUPERATION, CANCELLING EARLIER PLANS TO SPEND THAT TIME IN QUEENSLAND. THEY HAVE NOT DECIDED WHERE TO STAY IN OAHU, BUT WHITLAM TOLD ME HIS WIFE FAVORS ROYAL HAWAIIAN WHILE HE IS SEEKING A QUIETER SPOT THAN WAIKIKI. I NOTED THE VIRTUES OF KUILIMA.

5. WALLER AND BUNTING (BOTH ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR WIVES) WILL BE GOING DIRECTLY FROM WASHINGTON TO OTTAWA, BY-PASSING NEW YORK IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS IN OTTAWA BEFORE COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS' MEETING.

6. DOUGLAS MCKAY, SECRETARY OF DEPT. OF OVERSEAS TRADE UNDER DR. CAIRNS, HAS BEEN ASKED BY PRIMIN TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON NORTH AMERICAN TRIP. BUNTING SAID MAKAY MIGHT BE IN TOUCH WITH ME REGARDING SPECIAL CALLS HE MAY WISH TO MAKE IN WASHINGTON.

7. WHITLAM'S NEW YORK SCHEDULE CALLS FOR EVENING OF THEATER, A CALL AT UN FOLLOWING MORNING, AFTER WHICH HE WILL BE GUEST SPEAKER AT AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSN. LUNCHEON, LEAVING AT 4:00 P.M. FOR OTTAWAA FROM NEW YORK. (I SHOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THAT LUNCHEON AND SEE WHITLAM OFF AT NEW YORK AIRPORT).
GREEN

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